



NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE

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February 5, 2019

Honorable Catherine McCabe
Commissioner
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State Street
Post Office Box 402
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Commissioner McCabe:

We are once again writing to you for assistance and guidance on behalf of the governing body and residents of Vernon Township regarding the dumping at Silver Spruce Drive. As we hope you can appreciate, the lack of enforcement action has contributed to a growing sense of frustration.

As the concerns of the community continue to rise, local residents have rightfully become more proactive. Many activists recently banded together at the entrance to Silver Spruce Drive to protest the dump in an effort to bring greater attention to the community's plight and make a plea to the DEP for help. They have initiated a Facebook group and circulated a petition against the dumping which unfortunately continues unabated. The local residents share concerns about contamination to the aquifer fearing that their drinking water, the health of their children, and the value of their homes are being adversely affected.

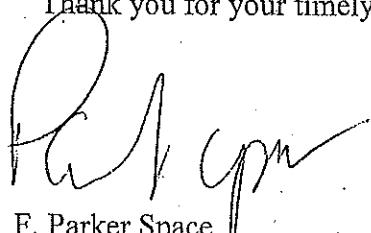
We, and the community as a whole, welcomed your visit in early December to the dump site and were hopeful that relief would finally be forthcoming. However, we have not received any official notification from your Department since that time, or to any of our correspondence to the DEP on this matter.

As the state representatives for this area, we join the Vernon governing body in aggressively seeking action by the State or at least some direction from the DEP or the Attorney General's office as to how local authorities can legally police the activities at the dump site as they do not feel they currently have the enforcement capabilities necessary to stop the dumping.

It would seem that the appropriate enforcement jurisdiction should lie with the DEP, but if the State believes otherwise, we ask that we be provided with the statutory citation which grants the legal authority to the locals to act as enforcement.

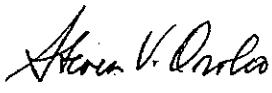
Once again, we strongly appeal to you requesting the State's assistance to the Township in resolving this ongoing issue in order to allay the ever growing anxiety in the community.

Thank you for your timely attention.



F. Parker Space
Assemblyman

Sincerely,



Steven V. Oroho
Senator



Harold J. Wirths
Assemblyman

SVO/FPS/HJW/hc

Cc: Attorney General Gurbir Grewal
Vernon Mayor Harry Shortway